ENGL 015

Assignment 1

July 6, 2011

Students and previous Apple iPad1 owners.

**Apple iPad 2: *Angry Birds’ latest console!***

If someone were to ask you what is the best way to get the least out of $829 is it a) to burn it, or b) to decompose it using sulfuric acid? The correct answer is none of the above; just get the latest iPad by Apple. Well, at least that is how I would feel since the iPad 2 is a waste of money and there are other tablets out there with a much better deal. The Apple iPad2 is the latest tablet device by Apple, upgrading to it will not be necessary especially if you already own the original iPad by Apple. The iPad2’s weight, depth, and its processor have changed (Calley, Tabletpcreview). Those were the changes and this will be why they are not worth your money.

If you are not familiar with them, tablets have occupied the electronics market for the past three years and are bringing out the best in every electronics company out there. And the demand for those devices is gradually increasing. Most of my friends whom are unaware of the technical specifics of those devices tend to think that the latest the better. Throughout this review, I will focus on Apple’s two tablets, the old iPad1 and the new second generation, iPad2. In my opinion, the most suitable tablet for any student until now is the original iPad because of its price that dropped dramatically since the release of its second generation and because it does what it was meant to do superbly. Much of my school work is done through my tablet, the Apple iPad1, and, simply, it’s a great gadget that has many advantages. I have all my notes, books, and lectures on my tablet. My tablet got me organized; I also use it for games, movies, books, you name it. Oh, and I am saving trees.

The reason why Apple is very successful is because, unlike other companies, they have a different frame of mind shaped by the following belief: to be successful, build a product that lacks a couple of essentialities but cover that by a single groundbreaking feature; then, upgrade that same product as the technology develops based on the market’s demands. Apple knows that the 21 century made it impossible for one gadget to dominate the market for a long time, and that is why much of their work revolves around the longevity factor of the product and that is why there is a new “iProduct” every year. They release all of these products that are lacking one or two obvious features so that they would have something to fall back on once they release the next generation of that product. For example, the iPhone 3G was not equipped with a video camera; however, it was successful because it offered an outstanding operating system. The later generation, the iPhone 3GS, however, was equipped with a video camera. As you can see, there is a certain pattern that is guided by the company’s mentality.

Let’s start with the most obvious upgrade, the camera. Yes, the iPad2 has a camera but here is the thing, it is really, really bad. The iPad 2 takes pictures that are 0.7 megapixels. That’s right, 0.7 megapixels in a world where phones can take 12 megapixels. In addition to that, a recent statistic found that out of 40 million people that uploaded pictures to Flickr this past month, only 22 of them took these photos with their Ipad2 (Clover, Padgadget). According to Joshua Topolsky from Engadget, “the iPad 2 cameras are really pretty bad. They’re not unusable, but it’s clear that the sensors employed are not top shelf by any measure.” He also mentioned that “neither one of these produces remotely satisfying results for still shots, and in particular (when compared with something like the Xoom).”I kind of understand the awesomeness in having third camera for your latest toy, but what is the point if you will not use it? Not to mention the fact that almost all students have digital cameras or at least cell phones equipped with a camera. In conclusion, the iPad2 might have had a slight fight back if only it had a good camera to rely on, but as we all know about Apple, they will probably leave the good cameras for the later generations.

Moving to Apple’s next upgrade, the processor. Yes, speed is critical most of the time, but not in this case. The Ipad2 is equipped with an A5 dual core processor, but who needs it’ especially when you compare it to the A4 chip found in the original iPad (Calley, Tabletpcreview). I never ran into any situations where I even doubted the speed of the original iPad. And I don’t think that the iPad use of students generally could exceed the speed provided by the A4 processor.

Finally, let’s talk about Apple’s favorite thing to do, making things lighter and thinner! Upgrading for the rest of the world is making things lighter and thinner, and this is done by default. However, Apple for some reason believes one fifth of a pound is a game changer. Thinner, by 0.2 inches, and lighter, by 0.2 pounds, aren’t critical upgrades, that is unless we were still in the 80’s (Calley, Tabletpcreview). My God…the iPad 2 weighs 0.2 lbs less! Do you know what that is? That’s 4.65 tablespoons of syrup that you’ve been carrying around, that’s less than half a cup of sugar that was making your life miserable! (Cup to Gram Conversions). Here is how I see it; the original iPad was pretty thin and light, no like ultra thin and super light. And frankly, trimming a fraction of an inch is not worth $829 or even five bucks for that matter.

The other tablets found in the market include the Samsung Galaxy Tab which has two cameras, a gyroscope, a 7 inch LCD screen, and runs on Android. The Galaxy Tab is worth $200. Another option would be the Blackberry Playbook, at $499. The Playbook has two cameras, supports Adobe Flash, has a 1 GHz dual core processor, and weighs less than a pound. Both tablets have the Angry Birds app available online aswell.

In the end, it all comes down to the price. Truth be told, the Apple iPad2 is without a doubt a great device. But is it a true upgrade? No. Is it worth its price? Of course not. The bottom line is, if you already have a tablet, there is no need for a useless upgrade, unless you’re one of those guys that has an extra $829 that won’t fit into your pocket. If you do not have a tablet, I highly suggest considering it, especially at this time. Finally, I would just like to remind you that the original iPad is more than fit to accomplish what it was meant to do, a tablet is not a computer and was never meant to be a computer. Apple thinks before packing everything in tiny tidy white packets. Apple is the type of company that thinks before ending a sentence in an ad and Apple thinks before choosing fonts. It is your time to think.

Work Cited:

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